

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208104 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY AF/W:PRCHAVEAS:HMN
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
AF/W:DBEASUM

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P 162153Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NI, PDIP, EAIR, EIND, SHUM, ECIN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EASUM'S MEETING WITH NIGERIAN
AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO, AUGUST 14

1. AMBASSADOR EASUM CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO
AT THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY. COUNTRY OFFICER CHAVEAS AC-
COMPANIED HIM. AFTER A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF
GENERAL OBASANJO'S KHARTOUM SPEECH AND DEVELOPMENTS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ANGOLA, THEY TURNED TO BILATERAL
MATTERS.

2. MID-LEVEL MANPOWER TRAINING - EASUM REPORTED THAT
ALMOST \$5 MILLION IN PAYMENTS FOR GROUPS I AND II
WAS A MONTH IN ARREARS AND THAT THE FIRST PAYMENT OF
OVER \$5 MILLION FOR GROUP III WAS DUE ON AUGUST 15.
JOLAOSO PROMISED TO CONVEY OUR CONCERN. HE AGREED WITH
EASUM'S OBSERVATION THAT THE PROGRAM HERE WAS GOING
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PAGE 02 STATE 208104 POSS DUPE

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT A
RECENT ARTICLE IN JET MAGAZINE ALLEGING THAT THE
PROGRAM WAS BEING CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID
BLACK SCHOOLS, THAT ONLY THREE STUDENTS WERE IN BLACK
SCHOOLS, AND THAT THE AID STAFF WORKING ON THE PROGRAM
INCLUDED ONLY ONE BLACK. JOLAOSO RECOGNIZED THE GROSS
INACCURACIES OF THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT SAID HE WAS TROUBLED

BY THIS PUBLICITY. WE WILL ARRANGE FOR BRIEFING OF JOLAOSO ON THE MATTER.

3. CIVIL AVIATION - EASUM BRIEFED JOLAOSO RE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING EMBASSY, FMG, MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, PAN AMERICAN AND WT. CHAVEAS EXPLAINED PROBLEM POSTED BY WT'S FAILURE TO OBTAIN OPERATING SPECIFICATION AND POSSIBILITY THAT CONTINUING NONCOMPLIANCE MIGHT RESULT IN WT BEING DIRECTED TO DISCONTINUE FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT TWO ISSUES ARE NOT RELATED.

4. CONSULATES - EASUM EXPLAINED OUR DECISION TO CLOSE IBADAN AND OUR REQUEST IN PRINCIPLE TO OPEN IN PORT HARCOURT.

5. PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE - SEE SEPTTEL.

6. BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS - EASUM REVIEWED FOLLOW-UP TO THE APRIL TALKS AND PROVIDED JOLAOSO WITH A COPY OF CAHILL'S JULY LETTER TO ALHAJI ABUBAKAR ALHAJI. JOLAOSO INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED TO RETURN TO LAGOS EARLY THIS FALL TO PUSH THE FOLLOW-UP PROCESS.

7. NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -
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PAGE 03 STATE 208104 POSS DUPE

EASUM NOTED THE SUCCESS OF THE CHAMBER'S RECENT MISSION TO THE US AND SAID THAT SEVERAL OF THE CITIES VISITED HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN HAVING A NIGERIAN CONSULATE. JOLAOSO SAID THAT NEW CONSULATES WOULD POSE SERIOUS BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

8. RAY BAKER - JOLAOSO NOTED THAT BAKER HAD PRESSED HIM FOR A SOLUTION TO HIS CASE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IMPORTANT BUSINESS REQUIRED THAT HE BE IN NIGERIA BEFORE JULY 31. WHEN BAKER DECLINED TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF A 90-DAY VISA IT RAISED QUESTIONS IN MEA ABOUT BAKER'S SINCERITY. EASUM EXPLAINED HIS RECENT EFFORTS IN LAGOS TO RESOLVE THE CASE, INCLUDING HIS EFFORT TO SEE YAR'ADUA. HE OBSERVED THAT MEA CLAIMS WE ARE APPLYING TOO MUCH PRESSURE. WE DO NOT FEEL THIS IS THE CASE AND HOPE MEA WILL UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. BAKER HAS A LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN NIGERIA AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING US INVESTMENT. HE IS UNDERSTANDABLY FRUSTRATED WITH OUR INABILITY TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE TEN MONTHS AFTER IT WAS DISCUSSED BY OUR HEADS OF STATE. HE HAS REFRAINED FROM GOING TO THE PRESS OR EXPLOITING HIS CONGRESSIONAL CONNECTIONS. WE HOPE THAT MEA WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THE SITU-

ATION REQUIRES URGENT RESOLUTION. CHRISTOPHER

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